

Section by Section Analysis of the Minority Serving Institution Digital and Wireless Technology Opportunity Act of 2005

Section 1. Short Title

“Minority Serving Institution Digital and Wireless Technology Opportunity Act of 2005.”

Section 2. Establishment of the Program

Establishes the Minority Serving Institution Digital and Wireless Technology Opportunity Program within the Technology Administration of the Department of Commerce to assist minority-serving institutions (MSIs) in acquiring and augmenting their use of networking and information technology. Funds may be used to acquire equipment; develop and provide training, education and professional development programs related to the use of technology; provide teacher education, including pre-service and in-service professional development, library and media specialist training and pre-school and teacher aid certification in technology; obtain technical assistance; and foster the use of technology to improve research and education.

Establishes an Advisory Council, comprised of representatives of MSIs, minority businesses and others with expertise in technology, to help encourage maximum participation in the program.

Establishes a review panel, selected by the Under Secretary and includes representatives of MSIs and others who are knowledgeable about MSIs and technology issues, to judge the quality and merit of the proposals, including the extent to which the institution can effectively use the funds. The Under Secretary is required to consider the recommendations of the review panel in determining whether to award or deny funds.

Requires institutions to report annually to the Under Secretary on their use of the funds.

Requires the National Academy of Public Administration to conduct an independent assessment once every three years on the effectiveness of the program in improving the education and training as well as access to and familiarity with technology for students, faculty and staff. Also requires recommendations on the continuing need for federal support. Upon completion, requires the results of the independent assessment to be transmitted to the Congress.

Defines terms.

Section 3. Authorization of Appropriations

Authorizes \$250 million for fiscal year 2006 and each of the following fiscal years through fiscal year 2010.